IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 and 12-21 are cancelled herein. All of the pending claims 8-11 and 22-24 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

1-7 (cancelled)

8. (original) An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein, said protein characterized by an ability to form a complex with receptors of the Tumor Necrosis Factor ("TNF") superfamily including the cytoplasmic domain of CD40 as determined by a yeast two-hybrid interaction assay or a co-immunoprecipitation assay, said protein comprising amino acids 54-140 of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof of at least 10 consecutive amino acids in length and which is able to form said complex.

9. (original) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 8 with 70-100% homology to the DNA sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:1.

10. (original) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 8 with 70-100% homology to the DNA sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:3.

11. (original) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 8 with 70-100% homology to the DNA sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:5.

12-21. (cancelled)

22. (original) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 8 encoding a protein comprising amino acids 54-362 of SEQ ID NO:2.

23. (original) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 8 encoding a protein comprising amino acids 54-273 of SEQ ID NO:2.

24. (original) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 8 encoding a protein comprising amino acids 54-236 of SEQ ID NO:2.